THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 14876 crore has been allocated to Ministry of Agriculture during the Ninth Five Year Plan period.

(c) and (d) The provisional estimate of expenditure for Ministry of Agriculture upto March, 2000 is placed at Rs. 5874 crore.

Shortage of Cold Storage in Tripura

4887. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of acute shortage of cold storage in Tripura;

(b) whether the Government of Tripura has sent a proposal for granting financial assistance towards the construction of cold storage;

(c) what is the reaction of Government to this proposal; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) In order to give a major thrust to the development of cold storages in the country, Government have already launched a scheme for providing capital investment subsidy for construction/expansion/modernisation of cold storages and storages for horticulture produce for implementation during the Ninth Five Year Plan, (1999—2002). The scheme is being implemented through National Horticulture Board (NHB). The States and Union Territories which do not control/administer rentals on cold storages are covered under the scheme. Under the scheme capital subsidy amounting to 25% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs and 33.33% with maximum limit of Rs. 60 lakhs per project in the case of North-Eastern States is provided. During 1999-2000, Government of Tripura recommended a proposal to National Cooperative Dvelopment Corporation (NCDC) for creation of additional cold storage capacity of 3000 tonnes and modification of cooling system of existing unit of 2000 tonnes by M/s Tripura Apex Cooperative Marketing Society Limited. NCDC has already sanctioned an amount of Rs. 166.59 lakhs (comprising loan of Rs. 129.57 lakhs and subsidy of Rs. 37.02 lakhs) to the Government of Tripura for this purpose under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Under Developed and Least Developed States.